


ELECTION INTEGRITY CAUCUS

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ELECTION BULLETIN



2022 MIDTERM BULLETIN

Empowering Voters to Participate Actively in our Self-Governing Constitutional Republic

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PROVING THE MEDIA NARRATIVE WRONG

On Election Night, the real winners were the voters of Florida and Georgia. After vigorously defending their state's election integrity reforms, both Governors DeSantis and Kemp declared victory for the much-maligned legislation they spearheaded, SB 90 and SB 202, respectively.

Florida:

- Strengthens mail-in ballot applications by requiring applicants to include either their Florida driver's license number, ID card number, or the last four digits of their Social Security numbers.
- Verifies absentee ballots upon receipt.
- Requires that counties finish counting early ballots by 7 p.m. the day before Election Day and that they post those results within 30 minutes of polls closing.

These provisions effectively ensured that Florida quickly and accurately reported its unofficial election results while affirming that only legal votes were counted and counted only once.



Georgia:

- Expands early in-person voting by offering weekend voting and extended weekday hours of satellite polling places.
- Strengthens voter ID requirements and makes voter ID more accessible for all eligible voters.
- Prevents voter intimidation and bribery within 25 feet of voting locations, allowing Georgians to practice their sacred right to vote unimpeded.

And vote they did—Georgia posted historic early turnout numbers rivaling a presidential election. The **2.5M early voters demonstrated that election integrity measures championed by Republicans in no way suppressed the vote**, despite the protestations of President Biden and almost every other Democrat politician. Importantly, Georgia's steps to secure the integrity of its elections encouraged voters to turn out by ensuring that their sacred right to vote by secret ballot—free from intimidation or undue persuasion—would be protected.

ARIZONA AND NEVADA, WHY CAN'T YOU BE MORE LIKE FLORIDA?

Meanwhile, all eyes narrowed on Arizona and Nevada. Broken tabulators, slow reporting, and unhurried counting provisions frustrated the state electorate and national observers.

- Arizona passed a slew of election reforms ahead of the midterms. But existing ballot scanning procedures and recent changes to signature verification slowed down Arizona vote counting and turned Election Day into a nightmare. Arizona's most populous county—Maricopa—ended the day with 17,000 ballots uncounted when 30% of voting centers experienced malfunctioning tabulators and was further inundated with 290,000 mail-in ballots that arrived on Election Day.
- On top of that, voters faced unacceptably long wait times, forcing countless potential voters to walk away without having their voices heard, thanks to delays caused by the malfunctioning tabulators. We may never know just how many voters were disenfranchised because of this.
- Arizona also lacks critical voter ID requirements for mail-in ballots, leaving open the possibility for extensive and organized ballot harvesting operations by political activists. After registering for the first time, those who vote by mail-in ballot are not required to provide any proof of identification when requesting an absentee ballot. Unfortunately, a ballot proposal to fix this lack of voter ID on mail-in ballots was not adopted as part of the 2022 midterm election, failing to address the issue, and leaving a glaring gap in Arizona's election integrity.

Moreover, while all ballots—including mail-in ballots—must be returned by 7 pm on Election Day, Arizona lacks any provisions addressing early ballot procedures, such as those that exist in Florida. Unfortunately, this left numerous ballots still uncounted days after the election.

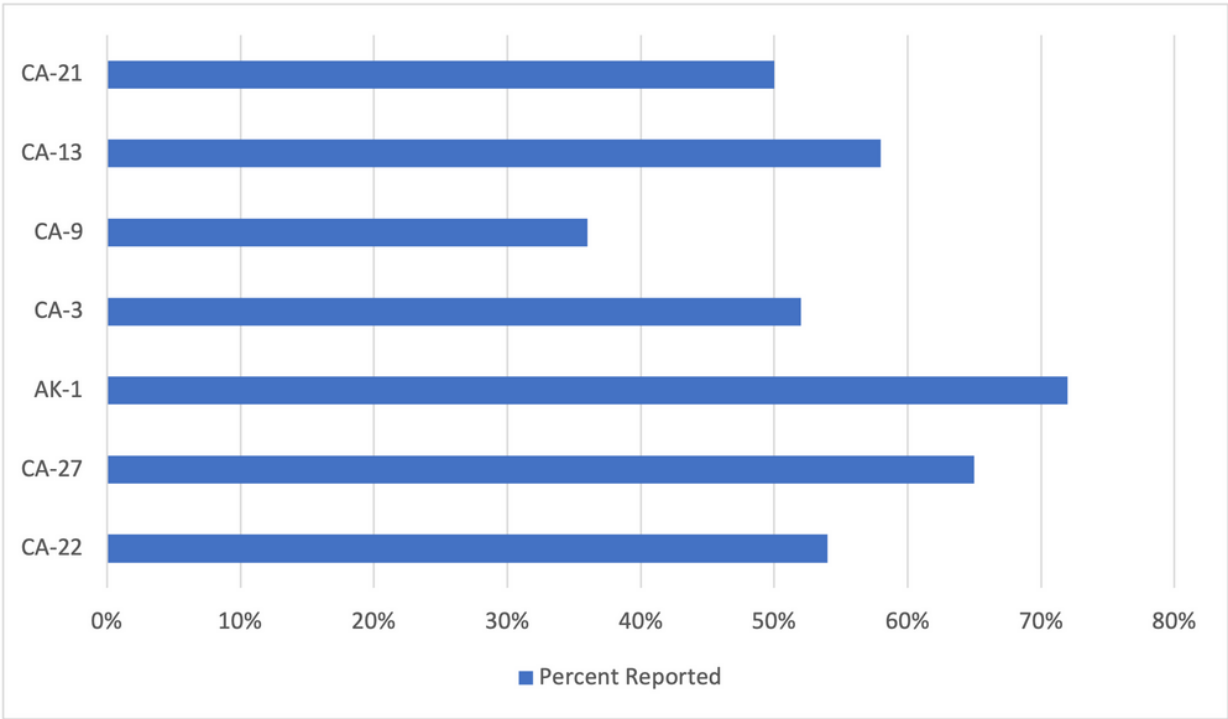
Nevada is often considered one of the worst states for election integrity.

- The Heritage Foundation recently gave Nevada a score of just 28/100 on its Election Integrity Scorecard, landing it dead last in the rankings among the states.[1] Nevada does not maintain its voter rolls, and it does not require any ID to vote.
- Further, this was Nevada’s first national election employing all mail-in ballots—the legislation requiring this, AB 321, was enacted June 2, 2021. Ahead of November 8, Clark County—Nevada’s most populous county—warned that it had a shortage of election workers and told voters and election watchers to expect delays. Nevada also accepts mail-in ballots that arrive up to four days after the election, meaning the state does not have accurate turnout numbers until at least the Monday after the general election, which exacerbates delays and uncertainty.

[1] <https://www.heritage.org/electionscorecard/pages/states/nv.html>

LESS THAN 75% IN SEVEN DAYS

One of the most concerning trends in 2022, is the number of races with less than 75% reported even a week after the general election. California is a clear outlier since its state law does not require the canvass of ballots to be complete until a full month after the election. This is ridiculous, causing undue delays that ultimately hamper the democratic process for no reason other than bureaucratic incompetence! Slow ballot counting fuels distrust in the system, decreasing Americans’ confidence that their votes actually matter. Check out some of the worst offenders so far:



LOOKING FORWARD

There are several immediate takeaways from the 2022 midterm elections. Voting is one of our most sacred rights as citizens of this self-governing Constitutional Republic. Policymakers must focus on restoring faith and confidence in our elections, which will empower more individuals to turn out to exercise their right to vote by secret ballot, free from fear or intimidation.

In the wake of the 2022 midterms, state-level policymakers should immediately consider:

1 **Ensure Election Day does not become Election Month.**

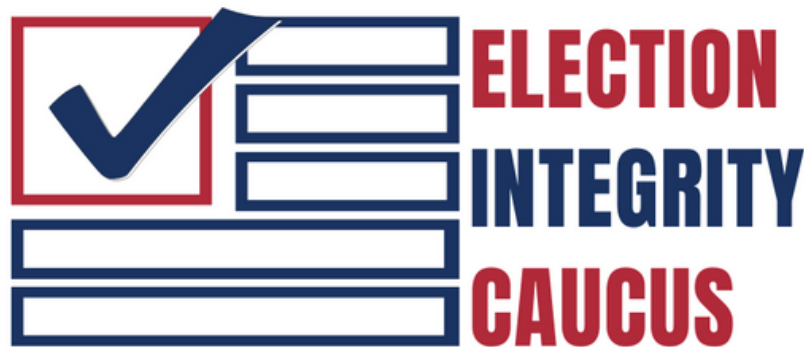
A typical election canvass should not take a full month to complete. States should give Boards of Elections the resources needed to properly execute an accurate canvass. Furthermore, states should implement more explicit requirements for the return of absentee ballots by Election Day and for the processing and counting of mail-in ballots before Election Day, such as the system that exists in Florida.

2 **Require voter identification when requesting mail-in ballots.**

Americans should have no doubt that every eligible voter is able to vote and vote only once. When voters request absentee ballots, states should require that they provide a form of voter ID. This will ensure the critical principle of “one citizen, one vote” and help protect against corrupt partisan ballot harvesting operations.

3 **Maintain updated and accurate voter rolls.**

States should take meaningful action to clean up voter rolls and make certain that only eligible citizens are able to exercise the right to vote. This, again, protects the principle of “one citizen, one vote” and can rebuild trust in the system.



Learn more: tenney.house.gov/election-integrity-caucus